CLAIMS

1 - Process for producing enantiopure β-amino acid derivatives corresponding to general formula (I)

R1-NZ-CHR2-CH_2-COOR3 (I)

in which

R1 and R2 independently denote organic residues optionally forming a cyclic substituent,

R3 denotes H or an organic residue, and

Z represents H or an amino function-protecting group,

comprising a step in which a mixture of enantiomers of a compound corresponding to general formula (II)

R1-NZ-CHR2-CH_2-COOR4 (II)

in which

R1, R2 and Z are as defined for formula (I), and

R4 is an organic residue,

is subjected to hydrolysis in the presence of a lipase.

2 - Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituents R1 and R2 in the compounds of general formula (I) and (II) form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH, said ring preferably comprising from 4 to 8 atoms, more particularly from 5 to 7 atoms.

3 - Process according to Claim 2, in which the heterocycle comprises at least one additional hetero atom preferably chosen from N, O and S.

4 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, in which the substituent Z in the compound of general formula (II) is an amino function-protecting group, in particular an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group or an aralkoxycarbonyl group.

5 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, in which the substituent R4 in the compound of general formula (II) is a methyl or ethyl group.

6 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, in which the lipase is Pseudomonas cepacia lipase.

7 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, in which the hydrolysis is

carried out at a temperature of 0 to 50°C and a pH of 6 to 8.

8 - Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, in which the amount of lipase used is 10 to 100 mg/mmol of compound of formula (II).

9 - Process for producing a peptide or a peptide analogue, according to which

(a) an enantiopure β-amino acid derivative is produced according to the process of any one of Claims 1 to 8;

(b) the enantiopure β-amino acid derivative obtained is used to produce the peptide or the peptide analogue.

10 - Enantiopure β-amino acid derivative corresponding to general formula (I)

R1-NZ-CHR2-CH_2-COOR3 (I)

in which the substituents R1 and R2 form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH, said heterocycle comprising at least one additional hetero atom,

R3 denotes H or an organic residue, and

Z represents H or an amino function-protecting group.

11 - Enantiopure β-amino acid derivative according to Claim 10, in which the heterocycle comprises from 5 to 7 atoms and the additional hetero atom is chosen from N, O and S.

12 - Peptide or peptide analogue which can be obtained using, in the process for producing it, an enantiopure β-amino acid derivative according to Claim 10 or 11.